



COUNTY OF MADERA
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PRESS RELEASE

**FIRST INSTALLMENT OF
PROPERTY TAXES COLLECTED AND POSTED!**

Madera-Calif - "We collected over seventy nine million dollars consisting of mostly first installments and some second installments of property taxes", Madera County Treasurer-Tax Collector Tracy Kennedy Desmond reported.

Kennedy Desmond said her department completed posting all of the December 10th mail and payments by December 20th, "What was time consuming this year, "was that we received an inordinate amount of overpayments", stated Kennedy Desmond, "hundreds of taxpayers mistakenly paid their first installments including penalties. "Our tax bill format has not changed, so we are unsure why the large amount of overpayments were made. "We will have to process a refund for each overpayment, so if you think you overpaid your taxes, you will not receive a refund until after January 20, 2014."

We also had an unusually large amount of walk in traffic during this deadline. On Monday and Tuesday December 9th and December 10th, over 2,700 property tax transactions were handled from over the counter transactions with our current staffing levels, representing over three million dollars in payments.", stated Kennedy Desmond, "remember that is walk in traffic only...does not include any mail. This kind of personal delivery is unheard of".

My Dedicated and experienced staff deserve credit for handling this kind of volume", stated Kennedy-Desmond, "they really out did themselves. Madera County taxpayers should be very proud of them, I know I certainly am!"

Of the 79 million collected in property taxes, more than 85 % will be apportioned to the various Madera County School Districts and the two cities, Madera and Chowchilla.

Many taxpayers took advantage of paying their taxes with a credit card, we processed nearly 1,000 transactions totaling over \$1.3 million dollars in tax payments”, this is the largest number of credit card payments we have ever taken. Many people chose this payment option even though a convenience fee is charged to the credit card holder.

The next tax deadline is April 10. Payments must be postmarked by April 10th 2014, to avoid penalties.

For questions regarding this news release, please contact Dan Garcia at 675 7713